Call for 'Jehad' against India by Masood Azhar

796. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the call of 'Jehad' against the country by the recently freed terrrorist Maulana Masood Azhar to a congregation in Islamabad and to raise an army of mujahideens from Pakistan;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto and whether the matter was taken up with the Pakistan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof as well as response of Pakistan Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) Government are aware of the hostile and anti-India propagandist statements being made from Pakistani territory by individuals and terrorist organizations who enjoy the patronage of the Government of Pakistan. Government believe that the encouragement of such activities by the Government of Pakistan is not conducive for normal bilateral relations.

Government have reminded Pakistan that its support to acts of terrorism against India, including the hijacking of IC—814 as well as subsequent public statements by the released terrorist Masood Azhar, was a contravention of Pakistan's obligation under the Simla Agreement. Pakistan was also reminded that, in Lahore Declaration, both sides had reaffirmed their condemnation of terrorism and expressed a determination to combat this menace.

Pakistan continue to pursue its policy of state sponsorship of terrorism and expressed a determination to combat this manace.

Pakistan continues to pursue its policy of state sponsorship of terrorism against India. Government remains firm in its resolve to counter this and continues to take all measures necessary to preserve the security and territorial integrity of this country.